INHERITANCE OF BACKGROUND COLOR
IN A CONTAINMENT HIERARCHY OF OBJECTS
IN A GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system and method are disclosed whereby the normal mechanism for color inheritance for the Swing application program interface (API) is altered to provide consistency with legacy Java applications in which the graphical user interface (GUI) is based on the abstract windowing toolkit (AWT) in legacy applications. According to the system and method disclosed herein, if the background color of a GUI object (such as a button) is explicitly declared, the object will be displayed with that color. Otherwise, the object inherits the background color defined by global settings in the Swing API. If no such settings are in effect, the object inherits the background color of its parent (as is the case in legacy AWT-based applications). This modification is available in an extension to Swing, referred to herein as AWTSwing.